



Summer intern Christine Ruf and herpetologist Michael Klemens collect turtles for study. Christine holds a spotted turtle while Mike gingerly handles a large snapping turtle.

The Nature Conservancy
Connecticut Chapter
Science Tower
PO Box MMM
Wesleyan Station
Middletown, Connecticut 06457
Tel. (203) 344-0716

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 8
Middletown, Ct.

SELECTING AND DESIGNING NATURE PRESERVES

Supported in part by a grant from the national office, the Connecticut Chapter has begun a program to identify critical habitats. Working from existing information, including the Connecticut Natural Areas Inventory, intern Julie Zickefoose is compiling a catalogue that will help the Chapter decide which lands to protect and how best to do the job. Many of Connecticut's top scientists have shared their knowledge and have helped her conduct field investigations.

Julie has winnowed the information and is assessing a dozen of Connecticut's most threatened habitats. For each site she develops a "protection package," a comprehensive report on ownership and the biotic character of the area. She evaluates the site as a prospective Conservancy preserve, paying special attention to the so-called ecological boundaries, the minimum acreage and configuration of land necessary to preserve the area's ecological quality. After mapping those boundaries, Julie adds the property lines, available from survey maps and assessors' records.

Then begins the involved process of deciding which protection tools to use: outright purchase, gift of land, acquisition of development rights, non-binding management agreements, statutory dedication, or a combination. The Conservancy tries to achieve a proper fit between

continued on page 2



Published for the members of
The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

W. Kent Olson, *Executive Director*
Susan D. Cooley, *Associate Director*
Polly Wildermuth, *Office Manager and Editor*
Marjorie L. Eaton, *Secretary*
Suzanne Wilkins, *Land Trust Service Bureau, Director*

Board of Trustees

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Peter B. Cooper Bethany <i>Chairman</i> | Russell Brenneman Glastonbury | William Ross Old Greenwich |
| Peter Neill Stony Creek <i>Vice Chairman</i> | Martha Briscoe Lakeville | Thomas Siccama East Haven |
| John A. Blum North Colebrook <i>Treasurer</i> | Ann Gaylord Niantic | Edie Smart Fairfield |
| Alexander S. Gardner New Canaan <i>Secretary</i> | Richard Goodwin New London | Alden Taylor Farmington |
| | James Pepe Abington | |

continued from page 1

the tools and the needs of each landowner. For example, if an owner prefers that no publicity accompany the ceding of certain property rights, the Chapter will work quietly to design a program that satisfies him and simultaneously preserves the habitat.

Thus Julie's "protection packages" are both descriptive and prescriptive. They are the instruments by which we balance environmental and human needs. The process of designing preserves is thoroughly described in *Building an Ark* (\$12.00, Island Press, Covelo, California, 1981) by Philip Hoose, Director of Preserve Design and Selection for The Nature Conservancy and a graduate of Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Julie's work draws on the general processes described in *Ark*, adapted to meet the special requirements of Connecticut's scientists and landowners.

Selecting and designing nature preserves is a rational process. It is also a way of channeling into areas of greatest need the contributions of our benefactors. Our mandate, after all, is to save first those species and habitats most likely to vanish were we less diligent in evaluating where to direct our limited resources.



W. Kent Olson
Executive Director

A CORRECTION

With regret we discovered we misprinted the names of the donors of Higby Mt. Preserve in our spring issue of *From the Land*. The donors of this fine 200-acre mountaintop preserve are Mr. and Mrs. Howard E. (not Harold) Houston. We extend to them our apologies, together with our renewed appreciation for their splendid gift.



Preserve Design intern, Julie Zickefoose.

LAND TRUST SERVICE BUREAU

The Land Trust Service Bureau (LTSB), headed by Director Suzi Wilkins, has completed its first project year of assisting the 77 land conservation trusts in Connecticut. During that time the Service Bureau has worked with numerous individual trusts having operational difficulties and with towns interested in forming a trust.

The Land Trust Service Bureau is currently completing a Handbook on trust formation and operation, parcel acquisition and management, tax matters, and community relations. Available this fall, the Handbook should provide comprehensive information pertinent to all the trusts.

Workshops and meetings are another feature of the Service Bureau. One of particular note was a conference entitled "Creative Land Management, Development and Protection," held April 4, 1981, and co-sponsored by the Housatonic Valley Association. Over 160 persons attended the conference; a synopsis is available upon request through the Service Bureau, c/o the Conservancy office.

Another project underway is an in-depth study of the use of conservation restrictions (i.e. easements) as a protection tool in Connecticut. A Yale intern, Gro Flatebo, is investigating what organizations (both public and private) hold restrictions and what management, legal or tax difficulties have been encountered, if any. Conservation easement information is available through the LTSB.



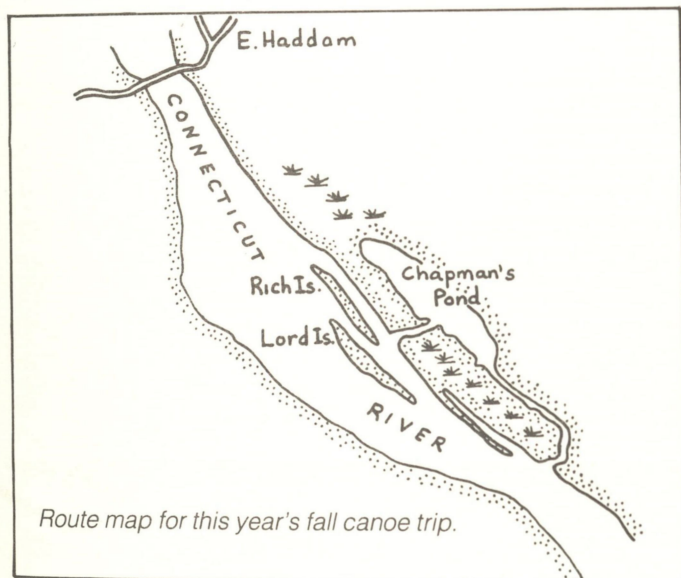
Land Trust Service Bureau intern, Gro Flatebo.

CONNECTICUT RIVER CANOE TRIP SET FOR OCTOBER 3RD

The Chapter will host its third annual canoe trip on the Connecticut River on Saturday, October 3rd. We will leave from East Haddam and paddle south along the river, stopping at Chapman's Pond, a unique freshwater, yet tidal, pond. The fall foliage should be nearing its peak.

We will limit this trip to twenty canoes. Please call the office (344-0716) if you are interested in joining the flotilla, whether or not you own a canoe. (There is a nearby canoe rental outfitter with canoes available.)

Once we have a list of those joining this trip, we'll provide details of the specific meeting place, time, and canoe rental if needed.



CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

The Connecticut Chapter holds some 45 easements covering more than 600 acres, plus 100-foot set-backs along almost ten miles of river frontage. While we do not hold title to the land, we do own certain restrictive rights, most importantly those to develop the land.

This summer, in an effort to learn as much as we can about our easements, a summer intern, Marianne Jorgensen, will document The Stanley Works Appalachian Trail agreement along the Housatonic River in Kent. She will also prepare a report on the more than 20 easements bordering the Bantam River in Litchfield.

This kind of documentation is vital to the Conservancy's interest. It is also the kind of work that requires great accuracy on the part of the intern and fully tests a student's judgment in the field. We at the Conservancy feel that practical jobs of this nature give a student a realistic view of what goes on behind the glossy front of land conservation and natural areas preservation.

In tandem with the Student Internship Program comes help from the volunteer sector. Robert Miller from Orange answered our plea for help in organizing a network of volunteer monitors. In the fall he will mail maps and directions to many of you who volunteered your help.

AN ALL-OUT SEARCH FOR A SPECIAL TURTLE

For the second summer the Chapter has launched an in-depth search for a rare species of turtle—rare enough to warrant not disclosing its name, lest collectors reduce the population. Thanks to the tireless efforts of two summer interns, Marianne Jorgensen and Debbie Shea, we have been successful.

Last summer's efforts indicated that early June was too late for a starting date, so this summer, we got a head start. By the end of April both Debbie, still part time at Southern Connecticut State College, and Marianne, a recent graduate from Connecticut College, had been briefed by Michael Klemens (see cover photograph) and Leslie Mehrhoff, senior biologist with the State's Department of Environmental Protection.

The two interns set off as a team—Debbie as chief mud prober, Marianne as wetland botanist. With the help of a local herpetologist, Dr. William Zovickian, they combed known habitat of the creature. After a total of fifty hours in the field, they had made three sightings, one a repeat.

They were meticulous in their data gathering. Information taken includes: ambient temperature of air, temperature of mud, temperature of water; the present weather



Hard at work, interns Marianne Jorgensen and Debbie Shea conduct a vegetation analysis and search for a rare turtle species as part of their summer research projects.

as well as that for the preceding few days; cloud cover. Each turtle found was measured, sexed, marked, and photographed. A complete botanical description was made of the immediate surroundings and a description of the turtle's habits taken. We're more confident now in our ability to recognize other turtle habitat.

The team work extended to Chapter Trustee Martha Briscoe who housed the interns each Monday night for about two months. She confesses to being won over by the interns' enthusiasm and quickly enmeshed in the mystery and excitement of the search: "By the end of the first week, I felt as if the only thing that really mattered in this world was the discovery of this rare turtle."

The search has now come to an end because the weather is too warm and the dense growth of vegetation too encumbering to work in. Debbie is now compiling the summer's findings, while Marianne shifts to other work for the Chapter.



THE GENTLE ART OF TURLING

In late May there was a stretch of hot, dry weather—not very promising for the herpetologist in search of his prey. Snakes tend to slither away from their sunning rocks to lie deep in cooler dens. Salamanders won't be found so easily under fallen logs, and frogs are less vocal and can't readily be found foraging in the forest.

Nonetheless, that same dry week coincided with Michael Klemens' holiday from his daily work at the American Museum of Natural History, and he was determined to find some herps. He had planned his itinerary to include investigating a number of Conservancy preserves in Middlesex County. He also agreed to give a helping hand to three summer interns at work in Litchfield County and on Higby Mt. Preserve in Middletown.

Each morning Mike would set off for a day's exploring with the usual paraphernalia: long-handled nets and turtle traps—much like huge lobster pots made entirely of netting extended by metal hoops. These are lowered to the pond bottom. The upper half of the netting remains above the water's surface to allow the trapped turtle to rise for air. The traps are baited with sardines.

Once caught, the turtle is either marked by a series of notches in its shell and released, or taken as a voucher specimen to prove a given species' distribution in Connecticut. Those few individuals are then deposited in the collection at the American Museum of Natural History to be used for reference by other scientists.

Highlighting Michael's week of investigations were the discovery of the rare green snake in Middletown, found dead on the road; marbled salamanders in East Had-dam, a first for the Conservancy; black rat snakes, uncommon in the state except for the lower Connecticut River Valley; and spotted turtles in three different sites.

Michael joined the Conservancy as a summer intern in 1976 to inventory ten preserves and has, since then, regularly volunteered his expertise to check many of our holdings. He is "living proof" that the Student Internship Program can provide the opportunity for hands-on field

work that stimulates the amateur scientist and catches his/her imagination so completely that a career choice in natural history results quite naturally. As Mike says, "I enjoy my work at the museum, but if I could make a living at it, I'd be a perennial student intern. I have boundless energy when I'm in the woods looking for herps."

CATHEDRAL PINES OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

"Cathedral Pines, the most extensive old-growth white pine forest in New England, possesses national significance in illustrating the natural heritage of the United States," reads the letter from the U.S. Department of the Interior. Thus, the Conservancy learned that Cathedral Pines, in Cornwall, has been identified as a potential national natural landmark.

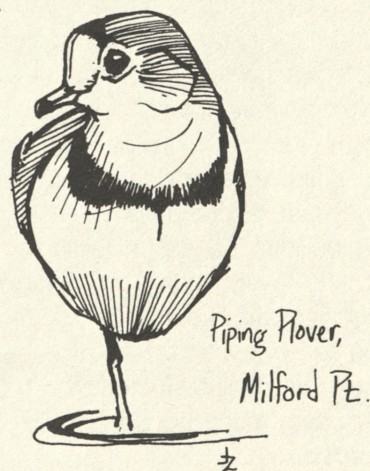
Landmark designation officially recognizes the importance of a natural area and encourages the landowner to employ sound conservation practices in the use, management and protection of the property. It does not affect the ownership of a given area but allows the landowner to enter into a voluntary agreement with the Department of the Interior to formalize the commitment.

If Cathedral Pines is chosen, it will join Walcott Preserve, already designated as a national landmark.

TEAMWORK VITAL TO PROTECTION OF TAINE MT. PRESERVE

In our last newsletter we told of the efforts we've been making in protecting Taine Mt. Preserve from a developer. Somehow we failed to mention an important factor in our equation for success: The Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE), a non-profit public interest law firm based in New Haven. CFE has provided all our legal assistance in this court action, and that tallies a healthy 97 hours of several lawyers' time.

This suit is a battle of wits, and we need our combined participation to prevail. Dan Millstone of CFE provides the legal expertise. Volunteer Carl Sieracki and the Taine Mountain Committee give us the local foothold required. The Chapter, too, plays an important role in coordinating the efforts of the team. None of us could do the work singlehandedly.



Drawings by
Julie Zickefoose.

PIETERS BEQUEST SUPPORTS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Connecticut Chapter is pleased to announce receipt of a very generous bequest from the Estate of Pamela Lawrence Pieters of Providence, Rhode Island, and Norfolk, Connecticut. Mrs. Pieters, who had a life-long interest in the natural areas of northwest Connecticut, directed that her gift be used for the preservation of wilderness and wildlife. Her gift has been placed in the Chapter's Stewardship Fund, where it will significantly help to assure continuing protection for Connecticut's prime natural areas.

Bequests provide an important means of making a substantial contribution to the long-range success of the Conservancy's land preservation program. All bequests to The Nature Conservancy are tax free and may be designated where most needed or to a specific program, as the donor wishes. Further information on bequests and other methods of deferred giving can be provided on request.



Installation celebration of the trail sign for the Weir-Leary-Anna White Preserve of The Nature Conservancy. The sign was constructed by Chris Fedun as part of his Eagle Scout project. Left to right: Malcolm A. S. Brooks, Chairman, the Weir Preserve; Scouts Chris Fedun, Jim Sullivan, Mike Cavanaugh, Mike Hamann; Sperry Andrews, Weir Preserve board member; Ken Olson, Executive Director, Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Photo by Doris Andrews.

LYME ARTHRITIS A PERSISTENT DISEASE

It might be that you'll find the tiny tick, *Ixodes dammini*, in the act of biting you. If infected, you will notice a small red spot—sometimes one, two or three weeks later—where you were bitten. The area surrounding the lesion may develop a rash or a telltale encircling red ring which is hot to the touch. The lesion is accompanied by chills and aches and an overall feeling of malaise and fatigue which may last several days or weeks. In severe cases, you develop joint, heart or neurologic symptoms similar to rheumatic fever, arthritis or multiple sclerosis which can recur for several years.

Known as Lyme arthritis, the disease first occurred six years ago. Last year it infected over 100 persons in Connecticut, being most prevalent in Old Lyme, Lyme and East Haddam.

Dr. Allen Steere, an assistant professor of medicine at Yale who has been studying the disease, believes that Lyme arthritis is caused by a bacteria rather than a virus because antibiotics such as penicillin and tetracycline help moderate the symptoms. Nonetheless, to date, the cause of Lyme arthritis remains a mystery.

Your best protection against the disease is to dress in long pants and long-sleeved shirts when you walk in woods and fields, and more importantly to check yourself and your pets upon returning home. If you find one of these small ticks, put it in a jar with a damp piece of lettuce. If symptoms develop within three weeks take the tick with you if you are treated at Yale.

CHAPTER FORMS CORPORATE ADVISORY BOARD

The Chapter is pleased to announce the formation of its Connecticut Corporate Advisory Board. The Board will be made up of top Connecticut business executives whose companies have been supporters of the Conservancy's land preservation activities in our state and nationally.

Donald W. Davis, Chairman of The Stanley Works in New Britain, has agreed to serve as Chairman of the Corporate Advisory Board. The other initial members are: Bartlett Barnes, Chairman, Bristol Press Publishing Co., Bristol; Frank J. Coyle, Chairman, Putnam Trust Company, Greenwich; John H. Filer, Chairman, Aetna Life & Casualty Co., Hartford; Worth Loomis, President, Dexter Corporation, Windsor Locks; Francis M. White, Chairman, Colonial Bancorp, Waterbury.

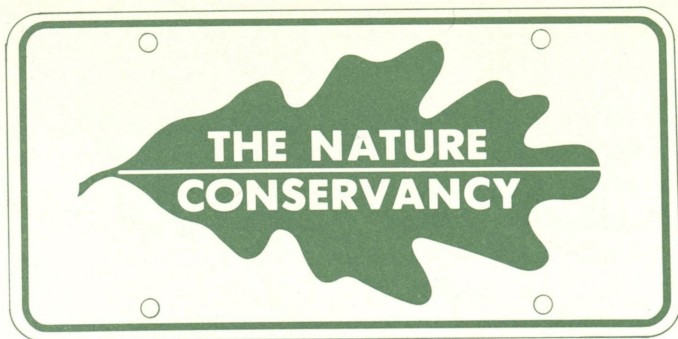
The Corporate Advisory Board will provide valuable counsel to the trustees of the Chapter and help us to interest other businesses in our efforts. We hope to name additional Board members from time to time.

The Nature Conservancy has played an important role in promoting land preservation as an object of corporate philanthropy. Because Connecticut is one of the top three headquarter states for *Fortune* 500 companies, we can look forward to continued growth in assistance from the business community. We welcome our new Advisory Board members to the Connecticut Chapter's management team.

HARTFORD NATIONAL BANK NEW CORPORATE CONTRIBUTOR

Hartford National Bank, a distinguished Connecticut institution and one of the largest banks in New England, has joined as a corporate contributor of The Nature Conservancy. We welcome Hartford National and look forward to a productive working partnership in saving the state's natural heritage.

The Chapter now has four corporate contributors, four corporate sponsors, and 25 full-fledged corporate associates, a proud record for the state's business community and an accomplishment on which the Chapter will continue to build.



CONSERVANCY LICENSE PLATE

A high quality, aluminum license plate is available for \$6.00 (postage included) from the Glastonbury Sub-Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, c/o Mrs. Jolly Stefens, 37 Coleman Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033. The sturdy 6" x 12" plate has standard mounting holes and is weather-proof. The Nature Conservancy logo is rendered in green and white. Proceeds go to the Glastonbury Sub-Chapter, sponsor of the project.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Chapter has begun keeping a permanent record of all memorial gifts. Since the first of the year, gifts have been received in memory of the following individuals:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Beatrice Andrews | Hannah Kellogg |
| Robert Roche Booth | Janet Linscott |
| James M. (Bob) Collins | Ethel M. Rogers |
| Mrs. Clifford Eaton | Ejnar O. Sandstrom |
| Huntington Erhart | Blanche Wells |
| Joanna Erhart | |

NEW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

The Board of Governors this spring elected to Honorary Life Membership all donors of easements and donors of irrevocable deferred gifts. The individuals thus honored are listed below along with several donors of out-right gifts of land not included in the list published in our winter issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mrs. Jean Ferris Anderson, Jr. | Mrs. John McClintock |
| Mr. & Mrs. Russell W. Brown | Mr. & Mrs. George P. Milmine |
| Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Chapman | Mr. Henry B. Mitchell |
| Mrs. Marilyn J. Conklin | Mr. & Mrs. Milton C. Mumford |
| Mrs. Barclay Cooke | Mr. & Mrs. William T. Okie |
| Mrs. Jean Leonard Dautrich | Mrs. Nancy C. Olmstead |
| Mr. Herbert Henry Ferris | Mr. & Mrs. Yngve H. Olsen |
| Dr. George C. Flynn | Mr. William M. S. Richards |
| Mrs. William Forsyth | Mrs. Una S. Riddle |
| Dr. Ludwig M. Frank | Mr. & Mrs. Newell Rogers |
| Mr. Andrew Gagarin | Mr. David Sargent |
| Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Gillespie | Mr. Benjamin P. Terry |
| Mr. John G. Girdler | Mr. Douglas H. Thomson, Jr. |
| Mrs. Marilyn Gaulty | Mr. James M. Thomson |
| Mr. & Mrs. Sherman P. Haight, Jr. | Mrs. W. Vincent Upton |
| Miss Nan F. Heminway | Mrs. Barbara Ferris Van Liew |
| Dr. & Mrs. Philip H. Jordan, Jr. | Commander Joseph Wadsworth |
| Mr. & Mrs. C. Frederick Kautholz | Mrs. Jeffrey P. Walker |
| Mr. F. David Lapham | Mrs. Christopher Young |
| Mr. & Mrs. Charles K. Levonius | |

Care has been taken in compiling the list, but should there be errors, we would be grateful to hear of them.

1981 ANNUAL MEETING

Nearly 50 members journeyed to the Wesleyan campus in Middletown on May 16th for the 21st annual meeting of the Connecticut Chapter where they participated in a brief business meeting led by Chairman Peter Cooper.

Newly elected to the Board of Trustees were: William Ross of Greenwich, a Chapter Acorn who has served on the Byram River Gorge Preserve Committee; Mrs. Bruce (Edie) Smart of Fairfield, also a Chapter Acorn; and Russell Brenneman of Glastonbury, attorney and past president of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority. Peter Cooper also gave thanks to the four trustees leaving the Board for their tremendous contributions to the Chapter's success: Charles Abbott, Robert Chapman, Mrs. Prudence Cutler, and A. Lindsay Thomson.

Alex Gardner, who joined the Board in 1978, was elected Secretary. Peter Cooper, Peter Neill, and John Blum were re-elected Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Treasurer, respectively.

White Oak Awards, given annually by the Connecticut Chapter to volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation of natural areas, were presented by Chairman Cooper to Dr. Carl J. Sieracki of Burlington and Alice Gore King of Wilton. Carl, Chairman of the Taine Mt. Stewardship Committee, has organized his committee of loyal neighbors to stand firm against a development that threatens the Taine Mt. Preserve. Alice Gore King, member of the Weir-Leary-Anna White Nature Preserve Stewardship Committee, has masterminded the very successful membership development plan for the Weir Preserve, which is now used as a prototype for other committees.



Bill Ross, a new trustee of the Connecticut Chapter, and his wife, Nancy, pause on hike up Higby Mt.

Director Ken Olson treated the gathering to a vivid travelogue through the Brooks Range in Alaska. The group then caravanned to nearby Higby Mt. to take advantage of the fine spring weather. Climbing steep, but manageable wooded trails, members ascended the mountain, catching glimpses of salamanders and wildflowers along the way. A picnic lunch atop Higby Mt. with beautiful views of the valley below was rich reward for the morning's effort.